Dallas-Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal
डॅलस-फोर्टवर्थ महाराष्ट्र मंडळ
2024-25
President – Shamli Asanare |Secretary – Rahul Padalikar |Treasurer – Santosh Deshmukh
Co-Treasurer – Rashmi Thopte |Webmaster – Sachin Funde
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December 2024 Mid Year General Body Meeting – Minutes of Meeting
Venue: Shri Vimal's banquet hall
535 W Airport Fwy, Suite #106, Irving, TX 75062
Date and Time: Sunday, 8th December 2024, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- At 10:00 AM President Shamli Asanare called to start the Mid-year General Body Meeting of Dallas Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal. At the beginning of the meeting, a roll call is taken by the secretary. 10 members were present at 10:00 AM. As the quorum of 50 was not met, the meeting was postponed by 25 mins.
- At 10:25 AM the meeting was started with the members present.
- President, Shamli opened the meeting thanking everyone for their support to mandal and the meeting started with paying the tribute to Late Shri Ghate kaka observing a minute of silence.
- BOT member Dilip Rane, Satish Thopte, Anup Shahapurkar, Shamli Asanare, Padma Joshi and Neeta Joshi shared their experiences and memories interacting with Ghate kaka in last few years.
- To honor Ghate kaka, the meeting was then resumed with the prayer he taught to all the members during BMM convention meetings.
- Shamli presented a brief overview of year so far:
    - The membership reached 905 members as of 8th December 2024.
    - Shamli encouraged all members to talk to their Marathi friends to get the memberships of mandal for the rest of the year
    - This year, mandal received record $47,000 in annual sponsorship. This included 6 platinum sponsors, which is very helpful for DFWMM.
    - The focus of this year's committee is on the program execution fineness.
    - We have started each event on time and ended it on time.
    - We need to find ways to involve more new volunteers in events and for help.
    - We have experience and confidence of executing large programs, not we need to bring the professionalism in the execution.
    - Also, one of the feedbacks received last year was that volunteers are exhausted due to many programs back to back. So, the focus this year is to optimize volunteer efforts.
    - 2 CAL members are always identified for each program – Lead and Co-lead. They focus fill time on the success of event. E.g. for Camping, we have already started the work.
- Updates on programs till now:
    - Rashmi updated that Mangalagaur program was very well organized, well executed by Anuja. Food from Vimal ji was well appreciated. We had a reel competition which was very popular, and the program was in positive financially.
    - Santosh updated on Dahi handi. It was a good program for family, over 450 members attended, Pizza party and gopal kala, was fun. We had little loss to due increase in price by Hawaiian falls, but overall, it was a good program.
    - Sachin Funde updated on Ganapati program. We did Atharvashirsha awartan which community responded well. As usual Dhol tasha mirvanuk was good, we had Ram mandir decoration this year. Also hosted a entertainment program from Niche Entertainments. The event was well led by Ravi and Anand. Shamli added that, we had a little less attendance for Ganeshotsav event this year, but 1st time in our history, we had puranpoli menu for Ganeshotsav.
    - Rashmi updated about Dandiya event. Importantly, it was free event this time. It was a major hit. We had around 850 members attending the event. Venue (Collin College) was very good.

- Rahul updated on Diwali event. This year, we had a Diwali Dhamaka – with 2 programs. Diwali Pahaat had a program from India "Babuji ani Mi" by Shri Shridhar Phadke. The second program was marathi play Varhad Nighalay Londonla. With combo offer both programs benefited (Diwali and VNL). We also added a Gold plus sponsor Radha krishna temple due to this program. both programs were very well received. We involved both shala as well in Diwali program with handwriting and Rangoli competitions.
- Shamli updated about the recently concluded new program "Short Film Festival". We were not sure about the response but pleasantly surprised to see 22 entries. From Community, Jeevan and Dilip helped a lot and Kaiwalya and Chaitanya led from the front. We wanted to be equitable to all teams, but were strict on timeline, and wanted everyone to follow program rules. This worked out very well. All 17 directors were very supportive. Many people got to learn new things, interacted with others, 450+ attendees. Rahul updated that we are walking the talk as planning was done to the seconds. Volunteers also were able to watch films. Shamli thanked Anup for the relationship with Angelika rep. Mr. Adam. Padma Joshi mentioned that she saw censor board certification - it was very nice idea. Shamli informed that EC and Chaityana/Kaiwalya vetted each film and rated it based on content.

- Shamli then appraised about the upcoming events:
  - Sankrant is scheduled on 12th January and the performances are for kids 18 and below. This is done for 2 reasons – we want to focus on programs for kids and will help adults focus more on melawa.
  - Shamli briefly talked about the later events – Shivjayanti, new program holi, manaswini in March, senior's picnic, Maharashtra din, camping, and scholarship.
  - She informed that as mentioned in the annual GBM, we are committed to close the year before 30th June 2025.
- Rahul updated about the initiatives Youth outreach and health and wellness.
  - 2 events conducted by youth outreach team – school supplies collection and clothes collection drive.
  - As part of social outreach, mandal also participated with Hunger Mitao for NTFB food collection drive.
  - Zoom session on obesity was organized by health and wellness team and it was well received.
  - Manaswini team has arranged a zoom session on "Understanding your finances" for all the ladies of mandal.
- Webmaster, Sachin Funde provided the website updates.
  - We engaged with Microtek systems in annual contract for website maintenance.
  - The enhancements to the website are prioritized with them and their team is working on it.
  - Security updates was a long pending item and the updates on done in staging site. We will do it in production this month.
  - Called out Raj Jangde Shree Asanare for the help they provided in website team.
  - The enhancement for linking sponsor logo with their website is complete.
  - Making first and last name mandatory and subscribing to the newsletter while taking the membership is in list of enhancements to be done this year.
  - Padma Joshi suggested to consolidate all the work we have done for community at large to be captured on website.
  - Dilip also suggested to capture page visits. We can use that metric to decide which pages are visited maximum and update those pages more frequently.
- Rashmi updated about the Plano Marathi Shala activities during this year till December. The mid term exam for plano shala is planned on 14th December.

- Shamli updated about the Miboli Marathi Shala. The shala had celebrated their Dasara event and Diwali event with the kids and all other activities are as per planned.
- Pulkeshi provided the updates from BOT:
    - BOT and EC are making it a point to meet regularly as discussed in previous AGM.
    - On the action items from the previous general body meeting, Pulkeshi updated that the task force is setup but there no major updates from the task force.
    - Many members from BOT are working closely with MEC for melawa execution and BOT feels that they are involved in the operations with all visibility. There are no three separate teams, but all working together as one team. (BOT, EC and MEC).
- Financial updates: Santosh gave the updated on the financial statements and P&L for first 5 months of the mandal year.
    - We started using QuickBooks this year instead of excel and that has helped in streamlining the books and get a detailed and clear view of the finances. CAL member Swapnil Kale and DFWMM member Sonali Khopde helped in setting up QuickBooks.
    - There was an incident at Lone Star high school during Ganapati event about the damage of backdrop screen of the school. The school claimed $21000 in damages. We worked with our insurance company and the claim was settled.
    - Pulkeshi and Padma suggested to take a video of venue before and after the event to check if any damages are done by us during the event.
    - Santosh then presented the revenue and expenses for the first five months.
    - He also presented the program P&L for the programs concluded till now.
    - Dilip suggested checking new CD rates and plans before renewing the CDs.
    - Anup suggested to keep around 6-7K in Paypal and transfer the rest to the checking account.
    - Santosh also updated that the mandal budget does not include melawa budget. The budget for melawa will be kept separate.
    - While discussing on scholarship account, the question Dilip asked is are we giving scholarship to right candidates?
    - Smita Rane also suggested to look at scholarship program and rethink on how we want to use the scholarship money.
    - Anup mentioned that during the planning of the 2023-24 Felicitation program, last year's team received feedback from the community regarding the scholarship program, highlighting that it needs revision as some recipients don't even deposit their checks. Recognizing students without monetary benefits but with different ideas to keep them interested is one of the feedback items. He suggested sharing this feedback with the current scholarship committee to address it further.
    - Additionally, Anup emphasized the importance of revisiting our initiatives, such as the College Buddy program & other to enhance them for long-term sustainability and better outcomes.
    - Rahul suggested forming a small team to relook at the scholarship program and the initiative.
- Melawa Execution Committee (MEC) provided updates on the preparation done on melawa till now.
- Shamli thanked MEC and all the members who were present and participated in the mid-year general body meeting and announced that the meeting is concluded.

Action items from the meeting:

Sl No	Action	Owner
1	Form a small team to relook at the scholarship program	EC

----------end of minutes----------